

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /028 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: EUR/CAN:RMISKOVISH

APPROVED BY: EUR/RCEWING

S/S:DMACK

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P 162035Z DEC 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

FOLLOWING REPEAT OTTAWA 4682 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 15 DEC

QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 4682

EO 11652 NA

TAGS PFOR CA

SUBJ MEETING WITH MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

REF OTTAWA 4639; STATE 293066

1. MEETING WITH LEADING GROUP OF CANADIAN CORRESPONDENTS AND COMMENTATORS OCCURRED SATURDAY NIGHT AS SCHEDULED. REPORTING WAS INITIALLY SOMEWHAT SENSATIONAL, BUT HAS NOW APPARENTLY SETTLED DOWN TO MORE EVEN TONE.

2. CERTAIN ITEMS WERE DISTORTED BY TV COMMENTATORS INITIALLY, AND ONE OR TWO CLARIFICATIONS MIGHT BE IN ORDER IN CASE QUESTIONS ARISE DURING DEPARTMENT'S NOON BRIEFING.

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3. COMMENT WAS MADE THAT I WAS PLEASED OVER DEFEAT OF

PREMIER BARRETT AND NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA LAST WEEK, WHICH I ALLEGEDLY SAW AS BENEFICIAL TO OUR INTERESTS. FACT IS I DID NOT MENTION EITHER BARRETT OR NDP. I SAID ON SUBJECT, "IT IS TOO SOON TO SAY WHAT EFFECT RECENT EVENTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE ON OUR INTERESTS."

4. I WAS ASKED WHETHER MY REMARKS ABOUT RISING CONCERN IN THE UNITED STATES IMPLIED THAT MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND TRUDEAU SHOULD TAKE PLACE. I REPLIED THAT I LIKE THE IDEA BECAUSE THE MEETING LAST YEAR WAS BENEFICIAL, BUT CANADIANS SHOULD REMEMBER WE ARE MOVING INTO AN ELECTION YEAR WHICH MADE MEETING RATHER UNLIKELY.

5. I WAS ASKED IF CANADIAN MOVE AGAINST TIME MAGAZINE (TIME CORRESPONDENT WAS PRESENT) WAS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I HAD IN MIND IN MAKING MY COMMENTS. I REPLIED THAT I WAS NOT COMMENTING ON PARTICULAR ITEMS, BUT AS THIS ONE HAD BEEN MENTIONED I COULD EXPRESS BELIEF THAT IT WOULD SHOW UP IN MEDIA COMMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AS IT HAD ALREADY IN CANADA.

6. I REFUSED TO LIST FOR CORRESPONDENTS MATTERS WHICH WE THINK ARE GIVING RISE TO CONCERN IN THE UNITED STATES, STRESSING THAT I WAS DEALING WITH AMERICAN REACTIONS TO SUBJECTS WELL KNOWN HERE.

7. I DO NOT RECALL USING TERM, "A BAD TURN OF EVENTS," CITED BY ONE CORRESPONDENT IN MONTREAL GAZETTE DESPATCH THIS MORNING.
PORTER UNQTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, LAW, PUBLICATIONS, NATIONALIZATION, PRESS CONFERENCES, TAXES, MINING INDUSTRY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE296141
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/CAN:RMISKOVISH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750437-0545
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751238/aaaabhqz.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 OTTAWA 4639, 75 STATE 293066
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES
TAGS: EFIN, EIND, ETEL, SCUL, PFOR, CA, US
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006